

THE LIGHT IN THE CLEARING

A TALE OF THE NORTH COUNTRY IN THE TIME OF SILAS WRIGHT

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"BEN HOLDEN, DRI AND L. DARREL OF THE BLESSED ISLES,"
KEEPING UP WITH LIZZIE, ETC., ETC.

SYNOPSIS.

CHAPTER I—Barton Baynes, orphan, is taken to live with his uncle, Peabody Baynes, and his Aunt Deel on a farm on Rattleroad. In a neighborhood called Lick-split, about the year 1835, Barton meets Sally Dunkelberg, about his own age, but socially of a class above the Bayneses, and is fascinated by the pretty face and fine clothes.

CHAPTER II—Barton meets Roving Kate, known in the neighborhood as the "Silent Woman." Amos Grimshaw, young son of the richest man in the township, is a visitor at the Baynes home, and Roving Kate tells the fortunes of the two boys, predicting a bright future for Barton and death on the gallows for Amos. Approved for an act of boyish mischief, Barton runs away, intending to make his home with the Dunkelbergs. He reaches the village of Canton and falls into a sleep of exhaustion on a porch. There he is found by Silas Wright, Jr., prominent man in public affairs, who, knowing Peabody Baynes, takes Barton home after buying him new clothes.

CHAPTER III—Barton and his uncle and aunt visit Canton and hear Silas Wright read a sermon.

CHAPTER IV—Silas Wright evinces much interest in Barton, and sends a box of books and magazines to the Baynes home. The election of Silas Wright to the United States senate is announced.

CHAPTER V—When Barton is twelve years old he becomes aware of the existence of a wonderful and mysterious power known as "Montezuma" and learns how, through his possession of that wonderful thing Grimshaw is the most powerful and greatly dreaded man in the community, most of the settlers being in his debt. After a visit to the Baynes home Mr. Wright leaves a note in a small envelope, which Barton is to read on the first night when he leaves home to attend school.

CHAPTER VI—Barton is asked to drive a load to mill, arrives safely, but in a snowstorm, unable to find the road, the horses get into the ditch and a wheel of the wagon is broken. Uncle Peabody manages to get together enough to satisfy Grimshaw and obtain an extension.

CHAPTER VII—Now in his sixteenth year Barton accompanies "Mr. Purvis," the hired man, to the postoffice at Canton. On the way they meet a rider, and the three journey together. They are held up by a man with a gun, who makes the highwayman's demand of "Your money or your life." Purvis runs away, while the stranger draws a pistol, but before he can use it the robber shoots and kills him. Barton's horse throws him and runs away. As the murderer bends over the stranger Barton throws a stone which he observes wounds the thief, who makes off at once, but not until Barton had noted that his gun stock was broken in a peculiar manner. Search of the neighborhood for the robber is unavailing and the stranger is buried.

CHAPTER VIII—Barton leaves home to attend Michael Hackett's school. Amos Grimshaw is arrested charged with the murder of the stranger.

CHAPTER IX—Grimshaw seeks to bribe Barton to be silent, about his wounding the murderer of the man killed on the road. The offer is spurned.

CHAPTER X—Embassadors of Ben Grimshaw seek to kidnap Barton, or, worse, he is warned by "Silent Kate," and escapes.

CHAPTER XI—Uncle Peabody, Aunt Deel and the neighbors celebrated Christmas. "Old Kate" is one of the party.

CHAPTER XII—Barton and Sally Dunkelberg formally pledge their troth.

CHAPTER XIII—Old Kate's silent but unrelenting pursuit of Old Ben Grimshaw has its effect, and goaded beyond endurance, Grimshaw dies as the "Silent Woman" points at him.

CHAPTER XIV—Barton gets a letter from "Roving Kate" which heartens him immensely. Although at the time he doesn't understand it.

CHAPTER XV—Barton moves from boyhood into manhood, and chooses his own road.

CHAPTER XVI—He meets the mother of Silas Wright, and learns the story of Kate Fullerton, "Wandering Kate."

CHAPTER XVII—Into a long way Barton starts, and with the senator gets an insight into the real things of life.

CHAPTER XVIII—Barton becomes Senator Wright's private secretary in Washington and helps make history. He journeys to the old pine tree to claim his bride according to the troth they plighted in their school days.

I am near the end. I rode back to Baltimore that forenoon. They had nominated Mr. Polk of Tennessee for president and Silas Wright for vice president, the latter by acclamation. I knew that Wright would decline the honor, as he did.

I hurried northward to keep my appointment with Sally. The boats were slowed by fog. At Albany I was a day behind my schedule. I should have only an hour's leeway if the boats on the upper lakes and the stage from Plattsburg were on time. I feared to trust them. So I caught the west-bound train and reached Utica three hours late. There I bought a good horse and his saddle and bridle and hurried up the north road. When he was near spent I traded him for a well-knit Morgan mare up in the little village of Sandy Creek. Oh, I knew a good horse as well as the next man and a better one than she I never owned—never. I was back in my saddle at six in the afternoon and stopped for feed and an hour's rest at nine and rode on through the night. I reached the hamlet of Richville soon after day-break and put out for a rest of two hours. I could take it easy then. At seven o'clock the mare and I started again, well fed and eager to go on.

It was a summer morning that shortens the road—even that of the young lover. Its air was sweet with the breath of the meadows. The daisies and the clover and the cornflowers

and the wild roses seemed to be waving a welcome to me, and the thorn trees—shapely ornament of my native hills—were in blossom. A cloud of pigeons swept across the blue deep above my head. The great choir of the fields sang to me—bobolinks, song-sparrows, meadowlarks, bluebirds, warblers, wrens, and far away in the edge of a spruce thicket I heard the flute of the white-throated sparrow.

I bathed at a brook in the woods and put on a clean silk shirt and tie out of my saddlebags. I rode slowly thence to the edge of the village of Canton and turned at the bridge and took the river road, although I had time to spare. How my heart was beating as I neared the familiar scene! The river slowed its pace there, like a discerning traveler, to enjoy the beauty of its shores. Smooth and silent was the water and in it were the blue of the sky and the feathery shadow-spires of cedar and tamarack and the reflected blossoms of iris and meadow rue. It was a lovely scene.

There was the pine, but where was my lady? I dismounted and tied my mare and looked at my watch. It lacked twenty minutes to eleven. She would come—I had no doubt of it. I washed my hands and face and neck in the cool water. Suddenly I heard a voice I knew singing: "Barney Leave the Girls Alone." I turned and saw—your mother, my son. (These last lines were dictated to his son.) She was in the stern of a birch canoe, all dressed in white with roses in her hair. I raised my hat and she threw a kiss at me. Old Kate sat in the bow waving her handkerchief. They stopped and Sally asked in a tone of playful seriousness:

"Young man, why have you come here?"

"To get you," I answered.

"What do you want of me?" She was looking at her face in the water.

"I want to marry you," I answered bravely.

"Then you may help me ashore if you please. I am in my best, white



"Then You May Help Me Ashore, if You Please."

slippers and you are to be very careful."

Beautiful! She was the spirit of the fields of June then and always. I helped her ashore and held her in my arms and, you know, the lips have a way of speaking then in the old, convincing, final argument of love. They left no doubt in our hearts, my son.

"When do you wish to marry me?" she whispered.

"As soon as possible, but my pay is only sixty dollars a month now."

"We shall make it do," she answered. "My mother and father and your aunt and uncle and the Hackets and the minister and a number of our friends are coming in a fleet of boats."

"We are prepared either for a picnic or a wedding," was the whisper of Kate.

"Let's make it both," I proposed to Sally.

"Surely there couldn't be a better place than here under the big pine—it's so smooth and soft and shady," said she.

"Nor could there be a better day or better company," I urged, for I was not sure that she would agree.

The boats came along. Sally and I waved a welcome from the bank and she merrily proclaimed:

"It's to be a wedding."

Then a cheer from the boats, in which I joined.

I shall never forget how, when the company had landed and the greetings were over, Uncle Peabody approached your mother and said:

"Say, Sally, I'm goin' to plant a kiss on both o' them red cheeks o' yours, an' do it deliberate, too."

He did it and so did Aunt Deel and old Kate, and I think that, next to your mother and me, they were the happiest people at the wedding.

There is a lonely grave up in the hills—that of the stranger who died long ago on Rattleroad. One day I found old Kate sitting beside it and on a stone lately erected there was the name, Enoch Rone.

"It is very sorrowful," she whispered. "He was trying to find me when he died."

We walked on in silence while I recalled the circumstances. How strange that those tales of blood and lawless daring which Kate had given to Amos Grimshaw had led to the slaying of her own son! Yet, so it happened, and the old wives will tell you the story up there in the hills.

The play ends just as the night is falling with Kate and me entering the little home, so familiar now, where she lives and is ever welcome with Aunt Deel and Uncle Peabody. The latter meets us at the door and is saying in a cheerful voice:

"Come in to supper, you rovers. How solemn ye look! Say, if you expect Sally and me to do all the laughin' here you're mistaken. There's a lot of it to be done right now, an' it's time you 'laid in. We ain't done nothin' but laugh since we got up, an' we're in need o' help. What's the matter, Kate? Look up at the light in God's window. How bright it shines tonight! When I feel bad I always look at the stars."

(THE END.)

U. S. FIGHTING MEN WANTED A CHURCH

REPORT OF Y. M. C. A. IN CENTRAL MILITARY DEPARTMENT
CONTAINS INTERESTING INFORMATION.

Chicago.—Uncle Sam's soldiers and sailors go to church. Figures showing attendance at religious services in Y. M. C. A. huts in military camps of the central department prove it.

Attendance at the religious meetings and Bible classes held in the huts between May 1, 1917, and December 31, 1918, was more than 5,280,000.

A. H. Lichty, executive secretary of the central department of the national war work council of the Y. M. C. A., has issued a report covering statistics of the Y. M. C. A. activities in the 131 huts in Central department camps. Mr. Lichty is in command of nearly 1,000 workers. Before coming to Chicago for war work he was secretary of the Ohio State Y. M. C. A. During



A. H. LICHTY.

his administration more than 2,500 men and women have been recruited in the 14 Central states for overseas service with the Y. M. C. A.

The number of letters written in huts in the 33 military camps totaled 62,798,410. The total attendance was 60,063,806.

Movies were the most popular feature of the "Y" service in the camps. The attendance at the 12,496 motion picture shows was 5,979,303, an average of more than 400.

The "Y" educational features were popular. In the 20 months 7,570 lectures were heard by 2,202,810 soldiers and sailors. The 68,272 classes of various kinds drew 1,394,418 and the 382 science and art clubs 62,539. For the American Library association the "Y" passed out 1,423,068 books.

Athletics Popular.

The number of participants in athletic contests under the direction of the "Y" was greater than the number of spectators. There were 5,398,259 in the contests and 4,437,017 "looking on."

The 902 workers in the 131 huts in the army and navy camps and the 184 S. A. T. C. units passed out to America's fighting men 510,432 Scriptures. There were 282,229 personal interviews on the subject of religion; 62,754 decisions to accept the Christian faith and 117,770 signed the "war roll" pledging themselves to a Christian life.

The 17,361 entertainments not including movies, drew 6,731,646 soldiers and sailors.

The fighting men were thrifty. In the period covered by the report the "Y" sent home for the enlisted men \$3,996,025 in money orders.

NEWS REVIEW OF CURRENT EVENTS

Supreme Allied Council Tries to Reach Agreement on the Reply to Germany.

BRITISH FOR CONCESSIONS

Huns Preparing for Refusal to Sign—Independent Republic Proclaimed in Rhineland—Austria Gets Terms of Peace and Says They Mean Her Death Warrant.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD.

Germany's counter-proposals were successful at least so far as causing a temporary division in the big four, but at this writing it seemed likely an agreement on the disputed points would be reached within a few days and a unanimous reply made to the Germans. That some alterations, not fundamental, would be made in the treaty was predicted, since it only remained to gain the consent of Clemenceau to changes favored by the British and presumably by the Americans. These included the readjusting of the Silesia clauses so that the population may obtain self-determination, probably through a plebiscite; reduction of the period of occupation along the Rhine from fifteen to ten years; and the addition of some plan by which the Germans shall have the use of a certain amount of merchant shipping with which to resume trade and help pay the reparations.

The endeavor among the allied delegates was to assure the world that such changes as might be made in the terms were contemplated not in the way of leniency to Germany, but to make the conditions "workable" and bring about a speedy peace and resumption of normal business everywhere. Clemenceau and the rest of the French were said to be strongly opposed to any changes. Lloyd George was reported as favoring concessions. President Wilson, after first standing aloof, taking the position that the British and French should come to an agreement among themselves, undertook to reconcile them, and as some of the alterations had been favored by American delegates his task was mainly to persuade the French. Orlando's attitude was not made clear. He was more interested, anyhow, in the settlement of the Adriatic question.

In view of his pre-election pledges, the position taken by Premier Lloyd George is surprising until one considers the fact that he is the head of a very shaky and unwieldy coalition ministry, which even now is threatening to go to pieces. The liberal and labor elements in England have been urging greater leniency toward the Germans in order that the treaty may be signed and calmness be restored to the industrial world, and it is fair to suppose that the premier has been trying to placate those elements. Vehement denials by the British press and attacks by British correspondents on American correspondents who have made public the state of affairs will be taken for what they are worth.

While the allied armies of occupation are ready to move forward at a moment's notice if the Germans refuse to sign the treaty, the Germans themselves are not idle in the same line. Noske, minister of defense, has made a tour of the coast defenses and directed all forces to be ready for emergencies in case of the resumption of naval operations, and the fortifications near the borders have not yet been dismantled as the treaty requires. The German volunteer army, much of which is in the eastern part of the country, is so large and so well equipped that it must be taken into serious consideration. Only recently the supreme army command sent out a circular asking the people of Germany whether they favored the resumption of the war, and when the government called Von Hindenburg to account for this he had a ready excuse which was far from an apology.

Russian Prices Up.

Omsk.—Horse meat at 30 rubles (\$15) a pound, dog at 12, rice flour 800 rubles a pound (36 pounds) and potatoes 240 rubles a pound! These were prices prevailing in Moscow last February, according to an American known as Dillon, representing a large farm machinery establishment, who left Moscow February 9 and came through Penza, Saratov, Uralsk, Orenburg, Samara and Ufa, arriving in Omsk after many difficulties April 2. A ruble normally was 50 cents. Moscow is half deserted, he said. All signboards of erstwhile prosperous business houses are down, as all such places have been "nationalized." To ride one verst (two-thirds of a mile) by cab costs 100 rubles. A box of matches, if obtainable at all, costs 15 rubles.

Six Recaptured; Seven Still at Large.

Louisville, Ky.—Thirteen prisoners escaped from the city workhouse by forcing massive wooden gates at the entrance to a thirty-foot stone wall. There were 73 prisoners in the yard when the break for liberty was staged. Eight guards employed at the workhouse were eating dinner at the time. Andrew Chism, a white trusty, gave the alarm. Within three hours police

One insistent demand of Germany, that she be admitted at once to membership in the league of nations, it was said would not be granted, for the French were unalterably opposed to this, and Mr. Wilson, according to reports, had gradually come around to their view of keeping Germany out of the league until she has become regenerated and proved her sincerity. There are not wanting influential persons and journals that argue for the immediate admission of Germany, basing the plan mainly on the allegation that the good will and early restoration to prosperity of that country are necessary to the rest of the world. They call attention, with shivers of apprehension, to the imminent danger of Germany's forming an alliance with Japan and Russia, and this was backed up last week by more or less precise statements that the Japanese and German emissaries already had been holding conferences in various neutral places. A good deal of this sort of stuff may be put down to pro-German propaganda, more active just now than for some time past, as witness the recent doings of the "German-American Citizens' league," with headquarters in Chicago. Much of it, too, is said and printed in behalf of the selfish and self-centered business man who demands uninterrupted and greater returns from his investments, regardless of justice to the vanquished and the victors in the war, the victors who might suffer, in this case, being the French.

The setting up of an independent republic in the Rhine provinces, with Dr. Hans A. Dorten as president, has still further increased the bitterness between France and Germany. The Berlin government, of course, refused to recognize the new state and ordered the prosecution of Dorten for high treason. Then the Germans claimed to have discovered that the scheme was fostered and aided by the French and that Marshal Foch and Premier Clemenceau had told the Rhinelanders that "the German government would never again have anything to do with the left bank of the Rhine, and hence the propagandists could not be punished." The Berlin press said the French had a propaganda fund of \$2,000,000 and were using it to bribe the people of Rhineland and the Palatinate to favor the independent republic. It is true that the French look with favor on the new state and apparently they will, so far as possible, protect it from the Ebert government. General Mangin, commanding the French army of occupation at Mayence, has forbidden strikes and other disturbances directed against the Rhenish republic. The German government formally protested to the armistice commission against the course pursued by the French. The British and Americans in the occupied territory, it was said, were taking no part in the affair and would take none.

The reply of the Austrians to the terms of the peace treaty handed to them was a dignified, rather pathetic and almost hopeless plea by Chancellor Karl Renner for conditions that would permit the German-Austrian republic to live and to organize for the existence of an independent commonwealth. He outlined the history of its establishment and argued that it has no relation with the former empire of the Hapsburgs. His country, he urged, should be treated as considerably as the other nations that have sprung from the Danube monarchy. Like the Germans, he made frequent reference to the fourteen points, and so did the Vienna papers when the terms were given to the public. The press declared the terms were cruelly harsh, and much anger was shown against the Italians, Czechs and Jugo-Slavs. The people generally were bitterly disappointed to find that they were not being treated much better than the Germans, and a big meeting of protest was held. The public view was expressed by Doctor Treichl, a banker, who said: "The only thing for the Austrian people is to say: 'We might as well join with Germany, as we are companions in misfortune. We have nothing to lose by doing so.'"

The grand council of German Austria adopted the report of Dr. Otto Bauer, which was to the effect that the peace terms meant the death sentence of the Austrian republic.

From Vienna comes the news that the bolshevist regime in Hungary is nearing its end. The communist cabinet has been replaced by one headed by Herr Gernon, one of Count Karolyi's followers, and it was said he had been invited to Versailles to confer with the entente representatives. In the Ukraine the troops of General Petlura captured several railway centers from the bolsheviks. A premature report from Vardoe said the Estonians and Finns had captured Petrograd. Later the bolsheviks claimed to have driven the Estonians back west of Gatchina. The American troops in the Archangel region began embarking for home. An interesting but unlikely story coming by bolshevist wire from Moscow said General Semenov had called a congress in eastern Siberia, which had declared the autonomy of Mongolia and named Semenov as grand duke of that country.

Two events have stirred the Spartans of Germany to renewed activity that leads to the prediction that they will soon make another organized attempt to overthrow the government. One was the finding in the Landwehr canal of a body declared to be that of "Red Rosa" Luxemburg, their murdered woman leader. The other was the discovery that Capt. von Pflug-Hartung and Lieutenant Liebman, who were convicted of the murder of Liebknecht, had been allowed to escape from prison on false release orders and get to Holland on false passports. It had been known that Lieut. Kurt Vogel, convicted of the same crime, had escaped in the same way. All this has aroused great bitterness against the government in the minds of many people.

Another "leak" sensation enlivened the proceedings of the United States senate last week when Senators Lodge and Borah declared that to their certain knowledge copies of the peace treaty, denied to the senate, had been in the hands of New York financiers for some days. Their statement was not doubted and Senator Hitchcock, after conferences at the White House and the state department, asserted that the copies in question had been stolen. He introduced a resolution calling for an investigation by the committee on foreign relations.

The senate on Wednesday adopted the resolution for submitting to the states the Susan B. Anthony amendment to the Constitution granting the franchise to women. The vote was 56 to 25. The house already had adopted the resolution and as the women of 28 states now exercise presidential suffrage there is little doubt that the amendment will be ratified by a sufficient number of states.

The springing of another big bomb plot by terrorists early in the week has aroused the national government to the necessity of rounding up and disposing of the anarchists who are running amuck in this country. William J. Flynn, new chief of the bureau of investigation of the department of justice, has been given a free hand, with orders to end anarchy in the United States, and his record warrants the prediction that he will go far toward doing that very thing. This time the "Reds" sought to kill Attorney General Palmer and other law-enforcement officials in eight cities of the East. Cordite bombs were exploded at their residences, but they all escaped death. One of the conspirators was blown to pieces by his own bomb in Washington and a watchman was killed in New York. The attorney general says extra legislation is not needed to take care of these bomb throwers and he wishes the authorities to treat them like other criminals and not to give the radicals the chance to say the government is persecuting them.

The strike situation in Canada improved considerably. In Winnipeg most of the returned soldiers threatened action against the strikers and the leaders of the latter appealed for "protection." It was believed the strike might soon be called off. This action already had been taken by the workers of Toronto. In Toledo, where automobile plant workers are on strike, there were riots in which two men were killed by guards.

LANDOR HAD PROPHETIC EYE

Brilliant Englishman Correctly Fore-saw Dire Events of Which He Vainly Warned His Countrymen.

The pamphlet to Lord Liverpool and the British parliament, written by Walter Savage Landor in 1813, of which two copies only are known to exist, makes highly spirited reading. In it he sets out, with keen concern and much energy of indignation, to criticize the magnanimity with which Europe, and more especially England, showed themselves inclined to treat Napoleon after the battle of Leipzig, Napoleon whom Landor regarded as a criminal, fit only for the gallows. Of Elba, he declared prophetically that it was "a rat trap open at both ends, from which it was impossible that Napoleon should not escape." Was the congress of Vienna, he asked in bitter scorn, with its "well-dressed ambassadors and ingenious state papers," to produce nothing more lasting than another treaty of Utrecht? He called in vain for the temper of Lord Chatham which should deliver the country from a mere "experimental peace." Within a year of Napoleon's banishment to the "rat trap open at both ends," he was back in France, and Europe was once more plunged into war.